

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0654

UNCLAS WARSAW 04884

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PL, US

SUBJECT: JEWISH CEMETERIES IN POLAND

1. DURING HIS FAREWELL CALL ON AMBASSADOR DAVIS ON JULY 23,
FOLLOWING HIS 10-DAY VISIT TO POLAND AS THE GUEST OF THE
POLISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, PROFESSOR ISAAC
LEWIN TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE HAD LEARNED THAT THE OLD
JEWISH CEMETERY AT CZESTOCHOWA LIES ON GROUND WHICH HAS NOW
BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE BEIRUT FOUNDRY. PROFESSOR LEWIN
REQUESTED THAT WE REMIND THE MFA OF THE CONCERN OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY, MANY OF WHOM ARE OF POLISH JEWISH
DESCENT, THAT JEWISH GRAVEYARDS IN POLAND NOT BE DISTURBED.

2. ON THE OCCASION OF A CALL UPON DEPARTMENT III DEPUTY
DIRECTOR PAWLISZEWSKI ON AUGUST 8 TO DISCUSS A NUMBER OF
UNRELATED MATTERS, THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR TOLD PAWLISZEWSKI
THAT WE HAD LEARNED OF THE CZESTOCHOWA CEMETERY BEING ON LAND
WHICH HAD BEEN GIVEN TO THE BEIRUT FOUNDRY AND SAID THAT WE
ASSUMED THAT THE FOUNDRY WAS AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE THAT
AMERICAN JEWS, MANY OF WHOM ARE OF POLISH JEWISH ORIGIN,
ATTACH TO THEIR ANCESTRAL BURIAL GROUNDS AND THAT,
ACCORDING TO JEWISH CANON LAW, GRAVES MAY NOT BE REMOVED
OR OTHERWISE DISTURBED.

3. PAWLISZEWSKI OBSERVED THAT UNDER POLISH LAW, GRAVEYARDS
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MAY BE DIVERTED TO OTHER LAND USES 30 YEARS AFTER THEY HAVE

CEASED BEING USED AS BURIAL GROUNDS. THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR COMMENTED THAT THE INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION OF POLISH LAWS WAS A MATTER FOR THE GOP; OUR INTEREST WAS IN SHARING WITH THE MFA THE CONCERN EXPRESSED BY PROFESSOR LEWIN, WHO HAD IMPRESSED US AS A MAN OF GOOD WILL WITH A DESIRE TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE TO THE GOP IN THE MATTER OF JEWISH CEMETERIES.

DAVIS

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